



News Release

Cooperating with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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March 6, 2008

NORTH CAROLINA TROUT SALES DOWN

North Carolina's 49 commercial trout growers sold 4.7 million pounds of trout in 2007, with a value of sales totaling \$6.4 million, down 12% from the previous year. North Carolina ranks second in the nation in trout sales behind Idaho. Value of sales for trout 12 inches and longer decreased 17% to \$5.3 million and averaged \$1.25 per pound. Pounds sold were 4.2 million, down 3% from a year earlier. The major sales outlet for trout 12 inches and longer was to processors, accounting for 73% of total sales. Seven percent of trout 12 inches and longer were sold directly to consumers, 6% were sold to live haulers, while the remaining 14% went to restaurant and retail outlets, other producers, and fee and recreational fishing. Drought caused major losses to trout during 2007, amounting to 58% of the 1,264 million pounds lost. Disease accounted for 27%, predators 7%, and flood 5%. The remaining 3% were lost due to theft, chemicals, and other causes. The value of distributed trout for restoration, conservation, or recreational purposes was \$1.0 million, down 31% from 2006.

Nationally, the total value of sales received by trout growers totaled \$87.5 million, up 9% from the previous year. Idaho accounted for 53% of the total value of fish sold.

NORTH CAROLINA CATFISH SALES DOWN

Thirty eight commercial catfish growers in North Carolina sold \$6.68 million in 2007, down 7% from \$7.21 million in 2006. The average price received for foodsize catfish decreased slightly from 81 cents per pound in 2006 to 80 cents per pound in 2007, which is 5 cents above the national average. North Carolina producers received more per pound than producers in the leading catfish production states of Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana. By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 93% of total foodsize fish sales, down from 95% the previous year. North Carolina ranks 7th nationally in total catfish sales.

Catfish growers in the U.S. had sales of \$445 million during 2007, down 8% from the previous year. The top four states, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana accounted for 94% of total US sales.

